

Captain John Hill House
61 Washington Street
Portsmouth
Rockingham County
New Hampshire

HABS No. NH-86

HABS
NH,
8-PORT,
147-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

CAPTAIN JOHN HILL HOUSE

HABS No. NH-86

Location: 61 Washington Street, Portsmouth, Rockingham County, New Hampshire.

Present Owner: Portsmouth Housing Authority. (1962)

Present Occupant: Unoccupied.

Present Use: One family dwelling.

Significance: This lot was sold in 1697 by Samuel Cutt to Captain John Hill. In later years the house was occupied by Aaron Conant, driver of the Boston Accomodation Stage.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History: Two-story dwelling. Shingled on outside. In good physical condition.

1. Date of erection: Mentioned in an account of Captain John Hill in 1705. He owned the dwelling in Portsmouth, as well as lands and buildings in Maine.

2. Architect: Not known.

3. Original and subsequent owners:

Capt. John Hill, original owner, was stationed at an English outpost, Fort Mary, Saco, Maine, in 1698. Bought land in Portsmouth from Samuel Cutts in 1697. His dwelling house in Portsmouth is mentioned in 1705. His estate was bought by George Walton, shopkeeper of Portsmouth in 1736. George Walton gave the house to his granddaughter, Temperance Walton, by deed 1778. (Rockingham Co. Deeds. v. 110. p. 462.) Temperance Walton sold to Wm. Ham, taylor, in 1791. (Rock. Deeds. 140. p. 266.) 1795 Wm. Ham, taylor, sold to Capt. Joseph Brown, mariner. (Rock. Deeds. v. 140. p. 266.) Capt. Joseph Brown was listed in Portsmouth Directories from 1821-1827. In 1834 Aaron Conant, stage driver, was listed at this location. He was here until 1856; Mrs. Conant was here until 1861. Then Mrs. Daniel Ham lived here until 1886. By 1962 the property belonged to Edward Johnson, who sold it to Portsmouth Housing Authority.

4. Builder, suppliers: Probably John Hill.

5. Original plans and construction: None extant.

PART II. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Important old views:

Photograph c.1890. From Garland Patch collection. Showing corner of Chase house and Conant house on corner of Washington and Jefferson Streets.

B. Bibliography:

1. Primary and unpublished sources:

Photostat copy of original deed from Captain Hill's estate to George Walton, 26 Feb. 1736. (From Concord Deeds. Lib. 22. Folio, 380) Rockingham Co. Deeds. v. 110, p. 462; vol. 140, p. 266, showing transfer from Walton to his granddau. Temperance Walton; her transfer to William Ham; Ham's transfer to Capt. Joseph Brown. Portsmouth Directories from 1821-1962 show residents of this house.

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